

4. SUMMARY OF SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEAN TROPICAL CYCLONES

4.1 GENERAL

On 1 October 1980 JTWC's area of responsibility (AOR) was expanded to include the Southern Hemisphere from 180° longitude westward to the coast of Africa. Details on Southern Hemisphere tropical cyclones and JTWC warnings from July 1980 through June 1982 are contained in Diercks *et al.* (1982) and from July 1982 through June 1984, in Wirfel and Sandgathe (1986). Information on Southern Hemisphere tropical cyclones after June 1984 can be found in the applicable Annual Tropical Cyclone Report.

The Naval Western Oceanography Center (NWOC) Pearl Harbor, HI issues warnings on tropical cyclones in the South Pacific east of 180° longitude. Tropical cyclones in NWOC's AOR are included in this and previous Annual Tropical Cyclone Reports.

In accordance with USCINCPACINST 3140.1 (series), Southern Hemisphere tropical cyclones are numbered sequentially from 1 July through 30 June. This convention is established to encompass the Southern Hemisphere tropical cyclone season, which normally occurs from January through April. There are two ocean basins for warning purposes - the South Indian (west of 135° east longitude) and the South Pacific (east of 135° east longitude) - which are identified by appending the suffixes "S" and "P" respectively to the tropical cyclone number.

CAVEAT: Intensity estimates for Southern Hemisphere tropical cyclones are derived from the evaluation of satellite imagery (Dvorak, 1984) and in rare instances by surface observations. Estimates for minimum sea-level pressure are derived by applying the Atkinson and Holliday (1977) relationship between maximum sustained one-minute average surface wind and minimum sea-level pressure (Table 4-1) to the intensity estimates derived from satellite imagery. Note: This relationship was based on data from the western North

Pacific. A modified relationship has been adopted for the Atlantic basin.

4.2 SOUTH PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEAN TROPICAL CYCLONES

After a below average number of tropical cyclones in 1988, 1989 (Table 4-2) activity rose to the near climatological mean of 27 storms (Table 4-3). A comparison of tropical cyclone activity for these two years shows that both started in the beginning of November and ended by mid-May. Although December 1989 proved to be below average with only one tropical cyclone in a month which normally has three, the multiple outbreaks (Figure 4-1) in late February and in the late March/early April timeframe resulted in the total being near normal. During the year, two tropical cyclones achieved super typhoon intensity—Harry (10P) and Orson (26S). Harry (10P) also shared the

**TABLE 4-1 MAXIMUM SUSTAINED SURFACE
WINDS AND EQUIVALENT MINIMUM SEA-LEVEL
PRESSURE (ATKINSON AND HOLLIDAY, 1977)**

| <u>MAXIMUM SUSTAINED SURFACE WIND (KT)</u> | <u>MINIMUM SEA-LEVEL PRESSURE (MB)</u> |
|--|--|
| 30 | 1000 |
| 35 | 997 |
| 40 | 994 |
| 45 | 991 |
| 50 | 987 |
| 55 | 984 |
| 60 | 980 |
| 65 | 976 |
| 70 | 972 |
| 75 | 967 |
| 80 | 963 |
| 85 | 958 |
| 90 | 954 |
| 95 | 948 |
| 100 | 943 |
| 105 | 938 |
| 110 | 933 |
| 115 | 927 |
| 120 | 922 |
| 125 | 916 |
| 130 | 910 |
| 135 | 906 |
| 140 | 898 |
| 145 | 892 |

distinction of requiring warnings for almost two weeks with Barisaona (02S) and Hanitra (11S). A comparison of activity by basin appears in

Table 4-4. Plots of the tropical cyclone best tracks are provided in Figures 4-2 and 4-3.

TABLE 4-2

**SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEANS
1989 SIGNIFICANT TROPICAL CYCLONES
(1 July 1988 - 30 June 1989)**

| <u>TROPICAL CYCLONE</u> | <u>PERIOD OF WARNING</u> | <u>NUMBER WARNINGS ISSUED</u> | <u>MAXIMUM SURFACE WINDS-KT (M/SEC)</u> | <u>ESTIMATED MSLP (MB)</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 01S ADELININA | 01 NOV - 04 NOV | 9 | 75 (39) | 968*** |
| 02S BARISAONA | 08 NOV - 20 NOV | 26 | 100 (51) | 944*** |
| 03S ILONA | 13 DEC - 18 DEC | 10 | 85 (44) | 958 |
| 04P DELILAH | 01 JAN - 03 JAN | 4 | 60 (31) | 980 |
| 05P GINA | 07 JAN - 09 JAN | 6** | 45 (23) | 991 |
| 06S - - - - | 10 JAN - 14 JAN | 9 | 75 (39) | 968*** |
| 07S EDME | 20 JAN - 25 JAN | 11 | 115 (59) | 927 |
| 08S FIRINGA | 26 JAN - 01 FEB | 14 | 90 (46) | 954 |
| 09S KIRRIPLY | 06 FEB - 10 FEB | 9 | 75 (39) | 967 |
| 10P HARRY | 08 FEB - 19 FEB | 24 | 130 (67) | 910 |
| 11S HANITRA | 17 FEB - 28 FEB | 23 | 125 (64) | 916 |
| 12S GIZELA | 18 FEB - 22 FEB | 9 | 65 (33) | 976 |
| 13P IVY | 23 FEB - 01 MAR | 13 | 100 (51) | 944*** |
| 14P - - - - | 24 FEB - 01 MAR | 10** | 90 (46) | 954 |
| 15P JUDY | 24 FEB - 28 FEB | 9** | 90 (46) | 954 |
| 16S - - - - | 24 FEB - 25 FEB | 3 | 45 (23) | 991 |
| 17S MARCIA | 03 MAR - 04 MAR | 3 | 35 (18) | 987*** |
| 18S - - - - | 09 MAR - 10 MAR | 4 | 35 (18) | 997 |
| 19S JINARO | 25 MAR - 30 MAR | 13 | 65 (33) | 976 |
| 20S NED | 26 MAR - 31 MAR | 19 | 100 (51) | 943 |
| 21S KRISSY | 30 MAR - 07 APR | 18 | 105 (54) | 938 |
| 22P KERRY | 31 MAR - 02 APR | 5 | 50 (26) | 987 |
| 23P AIVU | 01 APR - 04 APR | 8 | 120 (62) | 922 |
| 24S LEZISSY | 06 APR - 09 APR | 6 | 45 (23) | 991 |
| 25P LILI | 07 APR - 11 APR | 10 | 110 (57) | 933 |
| 26S ORSON | 18 APR - 23 APR | 12 | 140 (72) | 898 |
| 27P MEENA | 03 MAY - 10 MAY | 16 | 50 (26) | 987 |
| 28P ERNIE | 07 MAY - 09 MAY | 5 | 35 (18) | 997 |
| 28P ERNIE* | 10 MAY - 12 MAY | 4 | 30 (15) | 1000 |

TOTAL 312

* REGENERATED

** ISSUED BY NWOC

*** BASED ON SYNOPTIC DATA

NOTE: NAMES OF SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE TROPICAL CYCLONES ARE GIVEN BY THE REGIONAL WARNING CENTERS (NADI, BRISBANE, DARWIN, PERTH, REUNION AND MAURITIUS) AND ARE APPENDED TO JTWC WARNINGS, WHEN AVAILABLE.

Figure 4-1. Chronology of South Pacific and South Indian Ocean tropical cyclones for 1989.

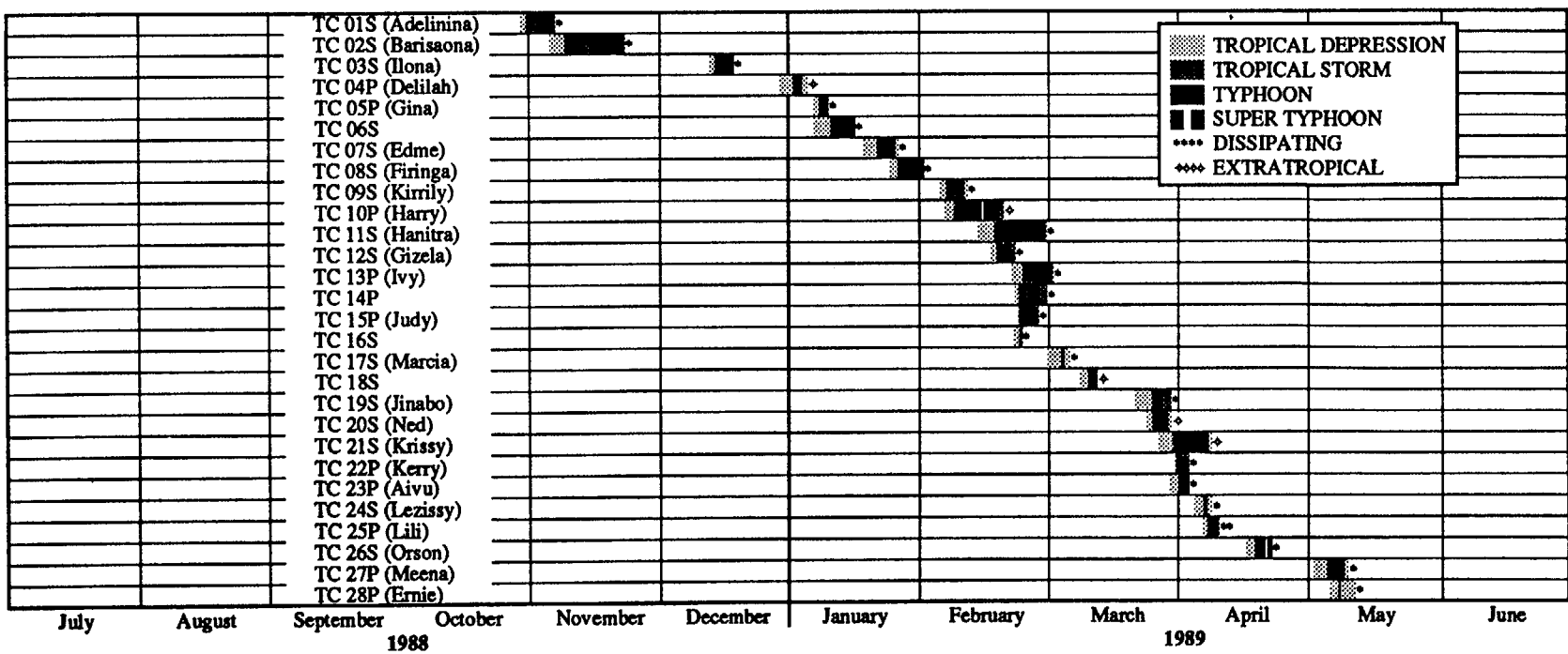


TABLE 4-3

**TROPICAL CYCLONE DISTRIBUTION
SOUTH PACIFIC AND SOUTH INDIAN OCEANS**

| YEAR | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN | TOTAL |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| (1959-1978) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AVERAGE* | - | - | - | 0.4 | 1.5 | 3.6 | 6.1 | 5.8 | 4.7 | 2.1 | 0.5 | - | 24.7 |
| 1981 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 24 |
| 1982 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 25 |
| 1983 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 25 |
| 1984 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 30 |
| 1985 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 35 |
| 1986 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 33 |
| 1987 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 28 |
| 1988 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 21 |
| 1989 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 28 |
| TOTAL CASES: | 3 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 28 | 59 | 64 | 36 | 29 | 9 | 1 | 249 |
| (1981-1989) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AVERAGE: | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.4 | 1.6 | 3.1 | 6.6 | 7.1 | 4.0 | 3.2 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 27.7 |

* (GRAY, 1979)

TABLE 4-4

**ANNUAL VARIATION OF SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE
TROPICAL CYCLONES BY OCEAN BASIN**

| YEAR | SOUTH INDIAN (WEST OF 105° E) | AUSTRALIAN (105° E - 165° E) | SOUTH PACIFIC (EAST OF 165° E) | TOTAL |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| (1959-1978) | | | | |
| AVERAGE* | 8.4 | 10.3 | 5.9 | 24.7 |
| 1981 | 13 | 8 | 3 | 24 |
| 1982 | 12 | 11 | 2 | 25 |
| 1983 | 7 | 6 | 12 | 25 |
| 1984 | 14 | 14 | 2 | 30 |
| 1985 | 14 | 15 | 6 | 35 |
| 1986 | 14 | 16 | 3 | 33 |
| 1987 | 9 | 8 | 11 | 28 |
| 1988 | 14 | 2 | 5 | 21 |
| 1989 | 12 | 9 | 7 | 28 |
| TOTAL CASES: | 109 | 89 | 51 | 249 |
| (1981-1989) | | | | |
| AVERAGE: | 12.1 | 9.9 | 5.7 | 27.7 |

* (GRAY, 1979)

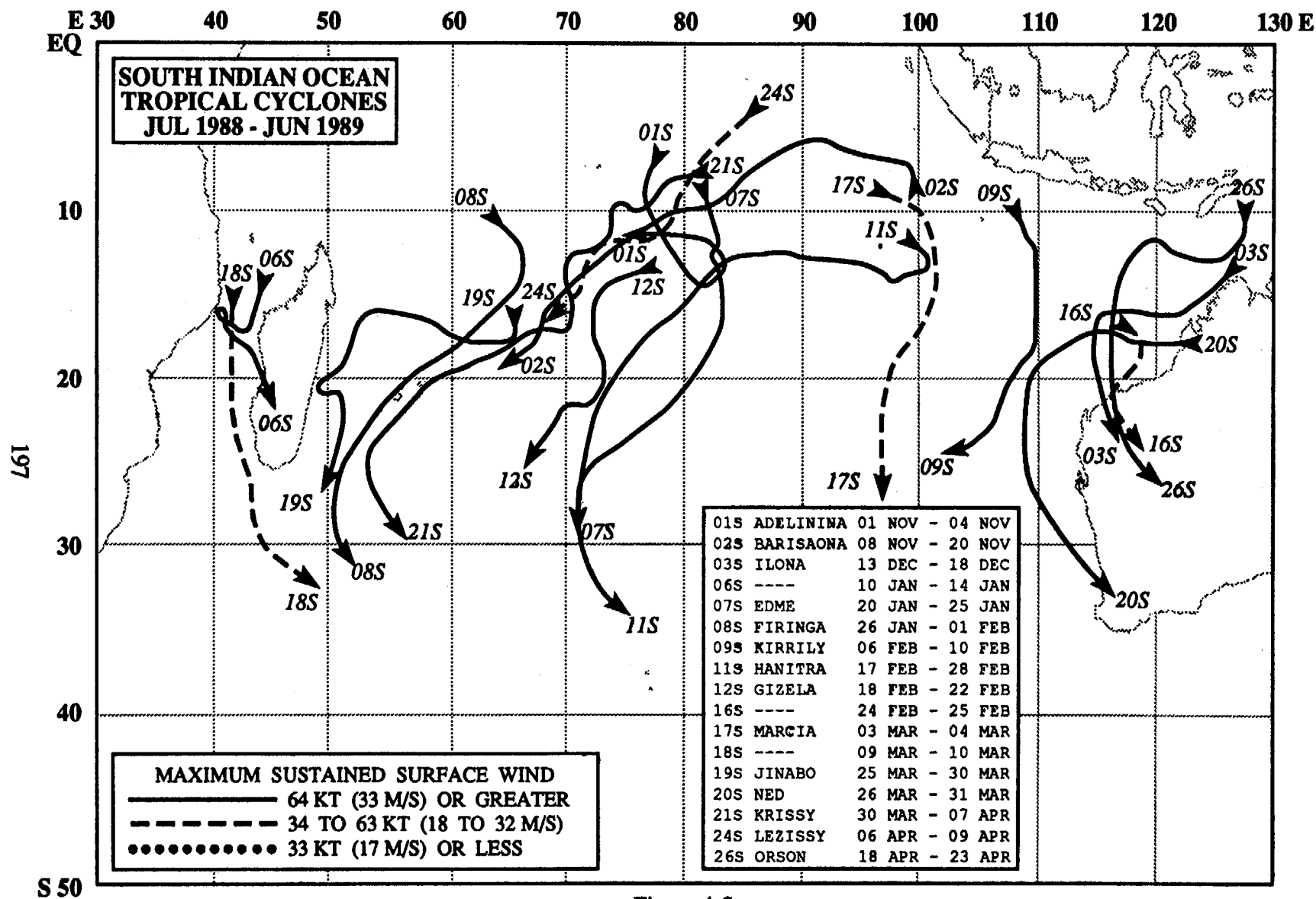


Figure 4-2

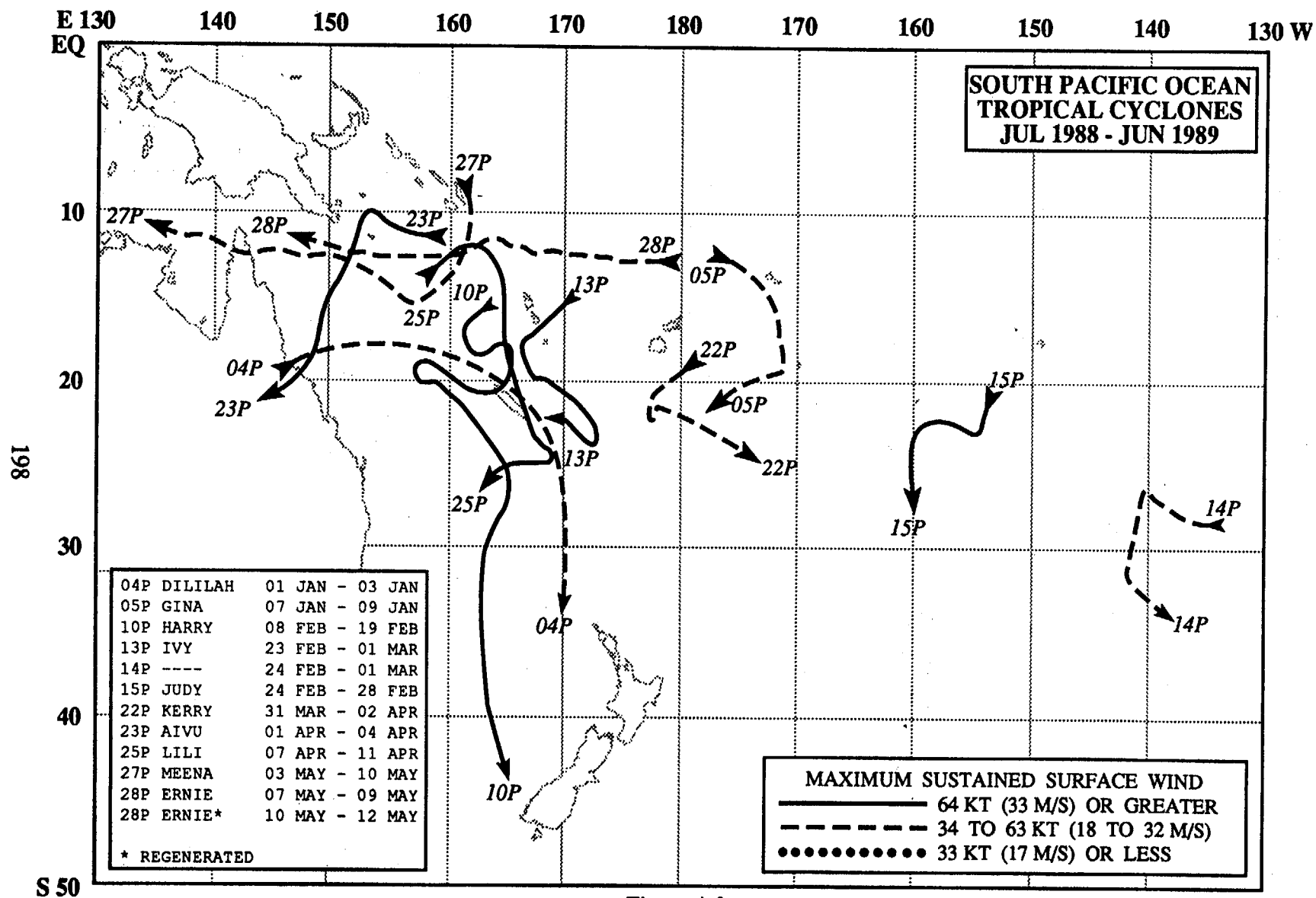


Figure 4-3